

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 FRB-01 LAB-04 CTME-00 STR-07 ITC-01
/178 W

-----100772 161817Z /45

P 161546Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7734
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03029

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: GOC ANNOUNCEMENT ON GROUND FISH ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

REF: A. OTTAWA 2921 B. STATE 150157 C. STATE 149623

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ISSUED JUNE 13
THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ENTITLED "IN-SHORE GROUND FISH
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME CONTINUES UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1978."

"IN-SHORE FISHERMEN IN THE ATLANTIC GROUND FISH INDUSTRY
WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS
UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1978, WITH NO APPLICATION OF COUNTER-
VAILING DUTIES BY THE U.S., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DON JAMIESON AND FISHERIES MINISTER
ROMEO LEBLANC ANNOUNCED TODAY. BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS
IN RESOURCES, MARKET RETURNS AND PRICES TO FISHERMEN,
ALL SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FOR THE GROUND FISH
FISHERY WILL THEN COME TO AN END.

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"REFERRING TO THE PHASING OUT OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
PAYMENTS, MR. LEBLANC SAID 'DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS,
THE FISHING INDUSTRY HAS GONE THROUGH ITS WORST CRISIS
TO THE BEST PROSPECTS EVER. THE VALUE OF CANADIAN
FISHERY PRODUCTS IN 1977 REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL EVER.
WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SET NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY,

AND THE ROAD IS LEADING UPWARDS.'

"THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY GAVE MOST OF ITS AID TO THE ATLANTIC GROUND FISH INDUSTRY, THE BIGGEST EMPLOYER IN ALL CANADIAN FISHERIES. FIRMS WHICH FOUR YEARS AGO FACED BANKRUPTCY, BY LAST YEAR HAD RECOVERED ENOUGH TO REQUIRE NO ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS. THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD CONDITIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR PROCESSORS OFFICIALLY ENDED MARCH 31, 1978.

"FISHERMEN CATCHING GROUND FISH (EXCEPT FRESH FISH FOR EXPORT) HAVE BEEN RECEIVING DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS OF TWO CENTS PER POUND FOR FIRST QUALITY FISH. NOW, LARGE TRAWLERS OVER 90 FEET WILL RECEIVE NO MORE PAYMENTS FOR ANY TRIP BEGUN AFTER MARCH 31, 1978.

"PAYMENTS ALSO STOP ENTIRELY FOR ALL GROUND FISH VESSELS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHERE INCOMES FOR GROUND FISH FISHERMEN ARE HIGHER THAN AVERAGE. FOR THE REMAINING GROUND FISH FISHERMEN IN CANADA, THE TWO CENT PAYMENTS CONTINUE UNTIL OCTOBER 1ST, 1978.

"WHEN THE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGAN IN 1974, THE CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY FACED THE WORST CRISIS IT HAS KNOWN. IN THE ATLANTIC GROUND FISH INDUSTRY, UNUSUALLY HIGH COSTS (STEMMING PARTLY FROM THE ENERGY CRISIS OF 1973), SCARCE FISH, AND POOR MARKETS HAD PRODUCED HEAVY UNCLASSIFIED

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LOSSES AND FORCED PRODUCERS TOWARD BANKRUPTCY. OTHER SECTORS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY ALSO FACED GRAVE PROBLEMS.

"TO PREVENT COLLAPSE OF COMMUNITIES AND WIDE-SPREAD DISLOCATION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY AID TO THE GROUND FISH AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY. AFTER A THOROUGH INQUIRY INTO THE CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY, THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED IN 1975 A NEW AND ACTIVIST FISHERIES POLICY, OUTLINED IN THE PUBLIC DOCUMENT 'POLICY FOR CANADA'S COMMERCIAL FISHERIES'. THE AIM WAS TO BUILD A STRONGER, MORE STABLE INDUSTRY AND PROVIDE BETTER, MORE RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT, WITH THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY AND ESPECIALLY OF FISHERMEN UPPERMOST.

"FOREMOST AMONG ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN WAS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT. THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING HERE SHRANK FROM MORE THAN 1,500 IN 1974 TO ABOUT 500 IN 1977. FOREIGN SHIPS NOW PAY TO FISH ONLY ACCORDING TO CANADIAN RULES, FOR FISH THE CANADIAN INDUSTRY DOESN'T USE.

"OTHER KEY ACTIONS UNDER THE NEW FISHERIES POLICY INCLUDE

APPLICATION OF STRICT LICENCE CONTROL TO ALMOST EVERY
MAJOR FISHERY, BECAUSE LIMITING THE ENTRY INTO THE
FISHERIES IS THE BEST WAY TO CONSERVE FISH STOCKS AND
TO RAISE THE FISHERMEN'S INCOME.

"PROCESSORS AND FISHING ENTERPRISES SHOULD CONTINUE
SUBMITTING COSTS AND EARNINGS DATA IN ORDER THAT MY
DEPARTMENT CAN CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ECONOMIC PERFOR-
MANCE FOR THE BEST MANAGEMENT OF CANADA'S FISHERY,'
MR. LEBLANC SAID.

"WITH A GOOD JUDGMENT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WE CAN
BUILD A BETTER FISHERY THAN THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER
KNOWN,' MR. LEBLANC SAID."
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-----100782 161818Z /45

P 161546Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7735
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 03029

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, PROGRAM ASSISTANCE, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA03029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0489
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780650/aaaabrgv.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30cd5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 2921
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2321905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC ANNOUNCEMENT ON GROUND FISH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TAGS: ETRD, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30cd5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014